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24 July 1949

TELECON CONFERENCE

() - Washington
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We are somewhat concerned about formation committee.

- (1) Can announcement be made before all members accept? If so, how many are necessary?
- (2) What is your time schedule for completion committee and what are plans announcement?
- (3) We are also concerned Zog's intransigence. If time available believe joint visit to him by () and Kupa and possibly Frasherri advisable.

()

Only bar to announcement now is arrangements with French unless you desire American Pixies definitely in beforehand. If announcement were made now it would not include two Blocu Independente nominees, American Pixies, individual in Greece and Nuci Kotta of Executive Committee. You would thus have only Balli Kombetars, Zogists and Kryemir followers.

We estimated two weeks necessary complete arrangements for announcement during which time remaining nominees still uninvited would be approached. Low was scheduled to leave London for Rome by air today to try hold committee together until we ready for announcement. If French approach successful plan was to bring members Executive Committee to Paris, issue proclamation, draft text of which you now have, at press conference. Low and suitable British would lay on arrangements Paris for press conference in order create appropriate interest.

Your concern more than justified. If Zog desires sabotage committee he is in position to do it, which would leave us with committee composed of Ballists and few independents, with Zogists and Blocu Independente groups in opposition. As of our departure

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1600 from London yesterday British had no word on Zog's answer which was to come to us incidentally through Col. Fiske. Executive Committee boys have wandered during past week and nobody able locate. According latest report, however, Abas Kapi returned Rome yesterday. An unclear on purpose to be served by visit you suggest. Core of problem is Zog's insistence on controlling Committee in alliance with Blocu Independente. In furthering this aim he has completely walled on agreement with Berry. Therefore believe we should await next move from Zog (unless we can meanwhile announce Committee) otherwise he will interpret this group's approach as an appeal and therefore softening of attitude our part. Zog may still be unconvinced seriousness our intentions and believe we only fishing in troubled waters. British incidentally replied my query they not really in position to exert much pressure on Zog.

[]
Agree to wait next move Zog, but Low should be ready with next move in event Zog reply unfavorable. Two week delay in announcement will allow for Frasher's trip to U.S. next week. This may help in convincing Zog we mean to go ahead.

Do you concur in asking Low arrange Frasher's trip U.S. prior to announcement?

Have not yet received draft proclamation and therefore unable comment on it yet.

[]
[] Very strongly opposed Frasher's trip U.S. prior announcement. I personally believe that on balance cover and security considerations make it undesirable but on other hand it might have very helpful effect re Zog. Inasmuch as will have important bearing on [] efforts keep Committee together at this critical stage suggest you query him.

Draft text of proclamation cabled you yesterday from []. Also pouched to you at same time draft proclamation, French text protocol, receipts signed by four members Executive Committee, and joint plan drawn up by [] and [] for use of []. Re [] recommendations on Athens cover organization they were result conference with Low and had his agreement.

[]:

O.K. to specify Executive Committee separately in announcement.

Has Brit Colonial Office agreed to [] Do you propose to establish joint field HQ there or elsewhere?

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[] is in territory under FONOFF administration. Latest word is that one side FONOFF had agreed and question still to be put to another. Looks favorable final reply expected midweek. Present assumption is that [] will not be joint field HQ. Agreement on eventual location will depend on number and location component parts all of FIEND. British have stated they wish put liaison at Athens HQ but this does not imply anything re joint HQ.

RE UR [] PARA 4, Gazette cover. What do you mean by "legitimate or phenomenal"?

[] Legitimate means Athens cover organization established by directive probably []. Phenomenal means it merely appears, without specific directive establishing it.

[] In making joint approach to French service, consider Embassy specialist on emigres, Harrison, should be cut in, or should instead act as our representative. We fear too much attention might be attracted by special approach by Washington representatives. What are your views? Use Radigan letter. Your proposed line with Ribiere OK. We can arrange additional visitors visas for U.S.

[] Reason for service approach to French is that arrangements with them are operational matter. Am certain British would not agree making your suggested alteration their approach. It will be clear to Ribiere we not making special trip for this sole purpose and we feel attention given to approach by Washington representatives is what is necessary in this case. Recommend we inform Harrison reason our approach but that he not participate and that arrangements be made for OSO here to receive and transmit reply if it delayed.

[] Procedure you propose O.K. We will arrange OSO channels tomorrow. Will try to arrange to use Moorehouse as your OSO contact.

O.K. to advise Bruce Committee aspects but State wants him able honestly deny other aspects.

(For [] What is Bruce's reaction []? We plan send him Paris three weeks TDY about August 5.

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[]
Will inform Bruce of forthcoming establishment Pixie Committee and our general interest in it in line with other such committees. May I then say we are approaching French service to assist in staging announcement? Seeing Bruce 10:30 a.m. July 25.

C []
O.K.

RE [] Dunn in his talks with Sforza will state his understanding that British have similar attitude re Pixie Committee. Presume British will forewarn their Ambassador Rome. [] has no instructions mention Pixie Committee not is it intended that he will make statement prior announcement Committee.

[]
Informed [] re Rome and he agreed. Will mention forewarning when next see him. Re [] British were confused since [] told them of fact which he had from [] of [] taking advantage his departure for States to testify Greek aid bill to strongly suggest to Tsaldaris issuance of statement re North Epirus which we and British had earlier agreed wanted from Greeks. British regard Greek approach as not difficult problem.

C []
Ref British query on Jug approach. Desire to postpone decision until your return.

[]
There was no urgency in British mention Jug approach.

C []
Trip to Zurich by both O.K. But hope you can arrange for one to do both jobs. Need you both back here urgently. When can we expect you?

Will arrange [] funds through [] tomorrow by cable. //

C []
Assuming we see Ribiere tomorrow we could proceed Zurich and return Tuesday. Your permission for me to ask Bruce for use his aircraft that purpose would be helpful in speeding this. We could then

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return London Tuesday or Wednesday where Brock has asked me for final conference before departing. He going on holiday Thursday so must see him before then. [] could then be into Washington Thursday or Friday. You apparently not received [] cover and deception progress report cable yesterday from [] which set forth reasons why he probably unable depart London till Friday.

[]

Prefer you not ask Bruce's plans unless he offers on own initiative. Leave final return schedule to you.

We are seeing Admiral Strubel, Denfeld's deputy for operations, tomorrow, and will advise then re Connolly briefing.

[]

Desire authority for cable channels. In using OSO cable channels here is it necessary to camouflage FIEND?

Will you cable [] at [] and [] contents DA 3, last sentence DA 4, and DA 8 or shall I do so from here? Do you concur my pouching copy this conference to Los from here?

[]

Cable channels will be arranged. We will cable [] O.K. to send copy to him under appropriate security conditions.

Camouflage as much as you can consistent with clarity. No special system possible on short notice.

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